Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1744 - January 14 2011

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1744 with a release date of Friday, January 14, 2011 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act gets another chance in Congress, the long awaited Spratley Island DX0DX is put on indefinite hold, repeaters in Italy are accused of interfering with ham radio space operations and the story of a 10 year old who discovers a supernova exploding star in a galaxy far, far away. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1744 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIO POLITICS: AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT ACT REINTRODUCED BEFORE CONGRESS

New life for a ham radio emergency communications measure. This as the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act is re-introduced before Congress. Norm Seeley, KI7UP, reports:

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The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act, which died at the end of the 111th Congress, has been reintroduced in the 112th Congress as HR 81. According to an ARRL credited posting on Facebook, the sponsor is Representative Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas.

The objective of the bill which is supported by the ARRL is for the Secretary of Homeland Security to study the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief. Also it would identify and make recommendations regarding impediments to amateur radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations.

Representative Jackson Lee first introduced the bill as HR 2160 in the 111th Congress in April 2009. It gained an additional 41 co-sponsors but did not progress out of the committee of jurisdiction. A similar bill introduced in the Senate as S 1755 as made it all the way through that body in December 2009, but likewise was not taken up by the House. Now, in 2011, a lot of hams are hoping that this latest version will make it though both houses of Congress and become the law of the land.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP, In Scottsdale, Arizona.

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The new bill which was introduced by Jackson Lee on January 5th has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. (ARRL)

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DX ADVISORY: DX0DX OPERATION ON INDEFINITE HOLD

Some disappointing news for DX'ers. The long awaited DX0DX operation from the Spratley Islands appears to be on indefinite hold and nobody can say exactly when it will take place.

According to a posting on DX World dot net by Team Leader Chris Dimitrijevic, VK3FY, the decision to abort the attempt at this time was brought about by what he termed as circumstances beyond the control of the DX0DX Team.

VK3FY said that the situation leading to the decision to postpone the operation began when the expedition's transport by ship was damaged back in October of 2010. They then opted to fly in, as there were no ships deemed to be safe to make the voyage to Pag-Asa available.

VK3FY says that they had landing permission and booked an aircraft with security cleared pilots. However, there was conflicting agreements and the aircraft could not get approval of its flight plan. As time was running out for this window of opportunity, and before more operators became stuck in Palawan in the hope of making the last leg of the voyage, the decision was made to postpone the operation.

The authorities overseeing access to the islands has been advised of the postponement. Also, all of the equipment that was to be used for the operation will be exported out of Philippines to comply with current Philippine Customs Law.

VK3FY ends by noting that his team has a license as well as the authority to land via ship. He says that when a ship becomes available, it is his intention to activate this entity sometime in 2011.

More on this story is on line at dx-world.net. We will have more DX news later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (DX-World)
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RESTRUCTURING: RSGB ANALYZING FUTURE OF HAM RADIO IN THE UK SURVEY

It looks like there could be some long nights ahead for officials of the Radio Society of Great Britains leadership. This as it wades through the myriad of responses to its recently concluded survey of UK hams on the future of the service and the society itself. GB2RS News Reader Jeremy Boot, G4NJH is here with the details:

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The RSGB Questionnaire on the status of amateur radio within the United Kingdom closed on 31 December 2010. Over 3,000 responses were completed, well in excess of expectations, so the Society is very grateful for those who gave their time to have a go at the Questionnaire.

It was particularly good to get feedback from several hundred lapsed members as well as a sizeable number of people who had never joined the

Society.

The analysis task has now started. Whilst there are some statistics that can be established quickly and easily some of the data, particularly the textual comments will take many hours to gather, categorize and collate.

I'm Jeremy Boot, G4NJH and you are listening to the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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The timetable for the analysis is to complete the analysis by the summer. This, so that the key findings can be used in long term planning by the RSGB. (GB2RS)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ITALIAN REPEATERS ALLEGED TO BE INTERFERING WITH HAMSATS

According to a report in the Southgate News, both F-M and D-Star repeaters in Italy are showing up in the Amateur Satellite segment 145.8 from 146.0 MHz. These machines are said to be government approved by Italy's Communications Regulatory Authority and are causing considerable interference to amateur radio satellites and the International Space Station contacts

Some of the Italian repeaters identified in the article as operating in the 2 meter Amateur Satellite allocation are said to include F-M machine IRE0CK on 145.85 MHz plus D-Star systems IR3UEF on 145.8 Mhz and IR0CD on 145.975 Mhz.

The Southgate story says that it would appear that Italy's telecommunications regulator permits repeaters anywhere within the 2 meter band on a provisional basis for 60 days. Authorization may become permanent if no complaints are received. The article calls on hams worldwide to make sure that the Italian telecommunications regulatory body is made aware of any problems.

This is not the first time that there have been interlopers into the ham satellite spectrum. Over the years there have been numerous reports of terrestrial business communications using these frequencies and eventually disappearing. Most of these reports came out of third world developing nations. The situation in Italy will be quite different if its proven that the repeaters alleged to be interfering with ham radio space operations have government approval to do so.

The Complete story of this repeater versus ham radio satellite interference is on-line at tinyurl.com/497bag7. The website for Italy's Italy Communications Regulatory Authority in the Italian language is www2 dot agcom dot it. And we will have more ham radio space related news later on in this weeks Amateur radio Newsline report. (Southgate)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC DESIGNATES K1MAN LICENSE RENEWAL FOR HEARING

The FCC has designated the Amateur Service station license of Glenn A. Baxter, K1MAN, for a hearing to determine if it should be renewed. In its January 10th Hearing Designation Order, the Commission stated that the proceeding will be held before a Commission Administrative Law Judge to determine whether a pending application filed by Baxter for renewal of his license for Amateur Radio Station K1MAN should be granted.

The Hearing Designation Order continues with the FCC stating that the record before it indicates that Baxter has apparently willfully and repeatedly engaged in unlawful Commission-related activities. These include causing interference to ongoing communications of other amateur stations, transmitting communications in which he had a pecuniary interest, failing to file requested information pursuant to an FCC Enforcement Bureau directive, engaging in broadcasting without communicating with any particular station, and failing to exercise control of his station.

The Order continues by stating that based on the information before it, the FCC believes that Baxter's apparent continuing course of misconduct raises a substantial and material question of fact as to whether he possesses the requisite character qualifications to be and remain a Commission licensee. Accordingly, it has designated his pending renewal application for a hearing.

Baxter had filed an application to renew the license for station K1MAN on July 22, 2005, but this application had been set aside by the FCC pending further action. His license expired on October 17, 2005, but under Administrative Law he has been permitted to continue to operate his station until the matter of his license renewal has been fully adjudicated.

The Hearing Designation Order was issued on Monday, January 10th and released on Wednesday, January 12th. In it, Baxter was given 20 days in which to respond and state whether or not he will attend a hearing on his license renewal at a time and place to be determined in a subsequent order. Those of you interested can read the entire K1MAN license renewal Hearing Designation Order at tinyurl.com/45vve38 (FCC)

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BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Cavernaun Amateur Radio Association repeater serving the city of Bordeaux, France.

(5 sec pause here)

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RESCUE RADIO: AUSTRALIA FLOODING CONTINUES

The flooding in Australia continues as does ham radios readiness to assist in relief efforts. We have more in this report:

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Audio report only. Hear it buy downloading the MP3 version of bthis weewks newscast at www.arnewsline.org

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Obviously this emergency is far from over and we will have more in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (WIA Q-News)

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COMMUNICATIONS POLITICS: FCC RELEASES FIRST LAB REPORT ON WIRELESS TRENDS

The Federal Communications Commission has released the first in a series of reports by the Office of Engineering & Technology Laboratory which looked at trends in cutting-edge wireless devices.

The report shows that the number of wireless transmitters authorized by the FCC in 2010 was nearly 12,000. This is an increase of almost four times the amount from a decade ago. Its also a 700% increase since 2008 in the number of devices with three or more transmitters. That's up from 7% of total devices in 2008 to more than 50% today.

The report also notes that new devices are becoming more useful and technologically advanced. It found that the number of new increasingly sophisticated devices entering the marketplace with multiple transmitters, enabling access to 4G networks, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and other types of connections, will continue to present more options for consumers.

The complete text of the report is available at the FCC website. Its in cyberspace as a Word document at tinyurl.com/45d67p4 or directly at http://www.fcc.gov/oet/info/documents/reports/wirelessdevice s.doc (FCC)

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RESCUE RADIO: FLORIDA COMPANY PLANS NEW NETWORK USING TV ATSC THAT INCLUDES EMERGENCY ALERTS

A new way to alert the public to emergencies while entertaining them is being introduced to the airwaves, and it uses the current digital television spectrum. Jim Davis, W2JKD, has the details.

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Ludwig Enterprises Inc., headquartered in Pompano Beach, Florida, is building a network of affiliates for what it's calling a nationwide world radio network with emergency warning ability. The company says it has developed and patented a portable handheld radio that receives

signals from the digital television ATSC format and features 50 channels of digital radio programming.

Ludwig says that its main programming will consist of 40 channels of ethnic talk radio such as Filipino, Pakistani, Hebrew, Chinese, Greek and Russian. The remaining 10 channels are English-language channels that include old-time radio shows, news, audio books, educational and religious programs and classical music. It says it is targeting U.S. multicultural, youth and over 55 markets with its content in particular.

But what sets this concept apart from others is it will also be able to provide an emergency alert system as well. According to Ludwig, its radio receives can receive local, regional and national emergency broadcast warnings. Specific national emergency and weather broadcasts can be customized to those localized areas, according to the company.

According to Ludwig Radio, its plan calls for agreements with broadcasters to lease transmit capacity. It says that with minor modifications to the existing transmitter site and no changes in FCC licensing this broadcasting network could allow the company to broadcast non-competing formats over existing broadcast spectrum.

I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD

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More about the new receiver and the company behind it is on line at www.ludwigent.com. (RW)

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COMMUNICATIONS POLITICS: W7EQI VOWS TO OVERTURN NET NEUTRALITY ACTION

Representative Greg Walden, W7EQI, the incoming chair of the House Communications Subcommittee, says that the FCC has overstepped its bounds in regard to Net Neutrality. His opinion came in a Tuesday, December 28th in a conference call with reporters about the FCC's 3-2 party line vote to expand and codify network neutrality guidelines.

According to news reports, Walden was joined by Energy & Commerce Committee Chair Fred Upton, Communications Subcommittee Vice Chairman Lee Terry and committee/subcommittee member Marsha Blackburn in pledging to get all the commissioners to Capitol Hill to explain the move. At the same time it was revealed that the legislators would work to overturn the controversial FCC decision by any legislative means necessary.

Confirming Upton's promise in an interview with Multichannel News, the three legislators vowed a series of hearings on the process, the legal underpinnings and the policy, the last which they characterized as a job-killing, investment killing, congress-bypassing, regulatory overreach. They also said they would look into at least three ways to block implementation of the order, which would be legislation, defunding the FCC appropriation, or a special congressional resolution

that would nullify the rules. (Published news reports)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: DAVID HUNT APPOINTED FCC INSPECTOR GENERAL

Some names in the news. First up is David Hunt was officially named Federal Communications Commission Inspector General on Monday, January 10th. This after holding the position on an interim basis since June of 2009.

Before entering law school, Hunt ran his own computer firm building software and hardware systems for the healthcare industry. He received a B.A. from George Washington University and a J.D. from Georgetown University.

Hunt joined the FCC in 1996 and served as Senior Attorney in the Enforcement Bureau from 1999 through 2006. Hunt then transferred to the Inspector General's office in 2006 as Assistant Inspector General for Investigations. During his tenure in that position, he received the FCC's prestigious Gold Award. (FCC)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: YASME FOUNDATION NAMES EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

The YASME Foundation which has named seven hams from around the globe to be the recipients of its Yasme Excellence Awards. This years list of winners include Ramon Santoyo, XE1KK; Makoto Mori, JE3HHT; Bruce Horn, WA7BNM; Rick Meuthing, KN6KB; Mikael Styrefors, SM2O; Alex Shovkoplyas, VE3NEA and Pepe Ardid, EA5KB.

The Yasme Excellence Awards are presented to individuals who through their own service, creativity, effort and dedication, have made a significant contribution to Amateur Radio. Their contribution may be in recognition of technical, operating or organizational achievement.

The Yasme Excellence Award program is sponsored by the YASME Foundation of Castro Valley California. This is a not-for-profit corporation organized to conduct scientific and educational projects related to Amateur Radio, including DX'ing and the introduction and promotion of Amateur Radio in underdeveloped countries. (Yasme Foundation Release)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: N6R TO CELEBRATE FORMER PRESIDENT REAGAN'S 100th BIRTHDAY

To celebrate what would have been former President Ronald Reagan's 100th Birthday, the Ventura County Amateur Radio Society will activate Special Events Station "N6R" from Thousand Oaks, California. This, from Saturday, February 5th through Monday, February 7th.

According to Peter Heins, N6ZE, who is the clubs Public Information Officer, operation is planned continuously from 0800 through 1800 PST on Sunday, February 06, 2011 and intermittently at other times on

Saturday through Monday. Operation will use CW and SSB on 80 through 10 meters for world-wide c contacts as well as FM on both simplex and repeaters for local area contacts.

Requests for schedules may be sent to n6rn6r at aol dot com. QSL with a self addressed stamped envelope to N6ZE at his Callbook or QRZ.com address. Sorry but no electronic QSL's will be accepted for this operation. More is on-line at www dot qrz dot com stroke db stroke n6r.

And for those not aware, the special N6R callsign has been used for many years in a multi-club Field Day operation from the grounds of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum which is located in Simi Valley, California. (N6ZE)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: PALM SPRINGS HAMFEST JANUARY 29

Turning to the ham radio social scene. This years Palm Springs California Hamfest is slated for Saturday, January 29th. Gates open to the public at 9:30 AM and the event runs until 4:30 PM Pacific Standard Time. Admission is only $1. More information including directions to the hamfest venue is on-line at desertrats.am/pshamfest2011.html (Desert RATS Club of Palm Springs)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: DAYTON TOP BAND DINNER MAY 20

The 22nd annual Dayton TopBand Dinner is slated for Friday night, May 20th in conjunction with the 2011 Dayton Hamvention. The venue will be the Crowne Plaza Hotel on East 5th Street in downtown Dayton. The social hour starts at 6:15 PM with dinner served at 7:30 PM. Tickets will be available starting in February. Keep an eye on www.topbanddinner.com for the latest details. (W8UVZ, K8GG, K3LR)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: MISSISSIPPI JAILS TO EXPAND INMATE CELLPHONE BLOCKING

Mississippi corrections officials say a new inmate phone-block system has worked so well at the Parchman penitentiary they will expand it to other state prisons.

Corrections Commissioner Christopher Epps told The Clarion-Ledger newspaper that the use of the technology has blocked more than 600,000 unauthorized texts and cell-phone calls originating inside Parchman since August.

Last fall, the state Department of Corrections announced it had signed a contract with its telecommunications provider for a program designed to immobilize illegal cell phones used by inmates at the Parchman prison. Epps said the system stops cell transmissions in defined areas from being completed but does permit specifically authorized and 911 emergency calls.

Since 2007, officials said, more than 8,700 cell phones have been confiscated at Mississippi jails and prisons. Epps said those cell phones have been used to plan escapes or to bring contraband into the prisons. He adds that the system will be installed at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility and the South Mississippi Correctional Institution by May. (Clarion-Ledger)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: ESPN TO LAUNCH ALL 3D TV NETWORK

ESPN will launch the broadcast industry's first 3-D television network. Called ESPN 3-D, the new network will showcase a minimum of 85 live sporting events during its first year, beginning with the FIFA World Cup match on June 11th that will pit South Africa vs. Mexico. Other events to be produced in 3-D include the Summer X Games, college basketball and college football. Additional events will be announced at a later date.

Sean Bratches is ESPN's executive vice president of sales and marketing. He describes the new venture to be a meaningful step to drive adoption of 3-D television sets and at the same time afford opportunities for its affiliates to create value through new product offerings.

According to its press release, ESPN has been testing its 3-D technology for more than two years. Last fall the network produced the USC vs. Ohio State college football game in 3-D. It was shown in select theaters as well as to 6,000 fans at the Galen Center on USC's campus. (ESPN, B&C)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: TURKEY TO LAUNCH VOICE HAMSAT IN 2012

Turkey plans to send its first ham radio communications satellite into orbit in September of 2012. This according to a December 28th report published by the semi-official Anatolia news agency.

The report says that the satellite is to be called 3USAT. Also that it is being developed at the Department of Space Engineering of the Istanbul Technical University. The project will be launched by Turkey's satellite communications operator Turksat.

Alim Rustem Aslan heads up the team manufacturing the satellite. He says that it will provide wireless voice transmission over an amateur band between two groups of people at two distant locations, but he did not specify which bands or what modes the new bird will operate on. (W7HTL, Xinhua via COMTEX)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: PROGRAMMER NEEDED FOR SOUTH AFRICAN CUBESAT PROJECT

The planned South African CubeSat project is in need of a volunteer with expertise in the area of programming PIC or 8051 microprocessors. According to Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, this person will be a critical member of the CubeSat team and will be responsible for the development of the onboard controller software. Anyone interested in volunteering for this mission or any other aspect of the satellites development should send a resume by e-mail to saamsat at intekom dot co dot za. (SA AMSAT)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: COMMEMORATING THE FIRST MOONBOUNCE EXPERIMENT

The Nashua Telegraph newspaper reports on the anniversary of the first Moonbounce transmissions that took place on January 10, 1946. That's when the U.S. Army Signal Corps performed an experiment dubbed Project Diana to see if a radio signals could be sent into space and then received back by on Earth bouncing them off the Moon.

The transmissions took place at Camp Evens, Wall Township New Jersey using an antenna that resembled a pair of bed springs. This experiment has been commemorated on a web page sponsored by the Ocean-Monmouth Amateur Radio Club. You can find it in cyberspace at www.omarc.org/diana1.htm. (OMARC, Southgate)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY DATE CHANGE FOR 2011

A date change for this years International Marconi Day. As the event would have fallen on Easter weekend the organizers have changed the date to Saturday April 30th for this year only. Look for details on International Marconi Day 2011 to be posted on-line at www.gb4imd.uk in the near future. (Southgate)

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QSL CORNER: ARRL TO INSTITUTE NEW OUTGOING QSL SERVICE RATE STRUCTURE

Effective January 17th, a new pricing arrangement will go into effect for the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service. With the new rate structure, amateurs will no longer need to count outgoing cards and then guess as to what to pay based upon a half-pound rate. Instead a simple weighing of the cards is all that is necessary to determine what amount to send to the Bureau. This new structure also accommodates a small rate

increase in response to recent postage, shipping and handling costs. More is on-line at tinyurl.com/4gprmnb (ARRL)

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DX

In DX, SP2FUD will be on the air portable 3B8/SP2FUD from Mauritius Island between February 8th and the 17th. He will then move on and operate portable 3B9 from Rodrigues Island between February 18th through the 22nd. Activity from both places will be on the HF bands using SSB and RTTY. QSL via his home call sign.

DL9HCU is once again in the Pacific and will be active as 3D2HC from Fiji. He likes 20 meters CW so listen out for him on 14 dot 002 or 14 dot 025 MHz between 0500 to 0800 U-T-C. Also, watch oyut for him on 14.183 MHz after 05:00 UTC as he will sometimes check into the ANZA Net. QSL via DL9HCU, either direct or vuia the bureau

UT5EO will be active as 4L0A from Obcha during the CQ 160-Meter CW Contest slated for January 28th to the 30th. This, as a Single-Operator High Power entry. If you work him please QSL electronically via Logbook of the World.

SM6LRR will be active from Sri Lanka between January 22nd and February 5th as 4S7LRG. His operation will be holiday with a focus on 160, 80 and 40 meters. QSL via his home SM6LRR callsign.

Lastly, N3ME and W3UR will be active from Barbados as 8P9ME and 8P9UR, respectively, between January 26th and February 14th. Their operation will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB, PSK and RTTY. QSL via their home callsigns, direct, by the Bureau or electronically using Logbook of the World.

(Above from various DX News sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: 10 YEAR OLD DISCOVERS SUPERNOVA

And finally this week, the story of a 10 year old Canadian girl who is being credited as the youngest person ever to discover supernova. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with her story:

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Kathryn Aurora Gray, of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, made her discovery this past New Year's Eve. This, after noticing what was later determined to be a magnitude 17 supernova, or exploding star.

The supernova took place in the distant galaxy known as UGC 3378 which is about 240 million light years away from Earth. The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada says that at age 10, Kathryn is definitely the youngest person ever to make such a discovery. A finding which has since been verified by amateur astronomers in

Illinois and Arizona. It also has been reported to and confirmed by the International Astronomical Union.

Kathryn's father, Paul Gray, helped her make the discovery by taking the steps to rule out asteroids and checking the list of current known supernovas. Paul Gray is also an amateur astronomer. He says that his daughter expressed an interest in the field last year after learning that a 14 year-old had once discovered a supernova.

Paul Gray gave Kathryn a test run last November using some old files. When she did it on her own on New Years Eve she made her discovery after going through only the fourth of 52 images that had been e-mailed to her father by amateur astronomer Dave Lane of Stillwater Lake, Nova Scotia.

Talk about a little girl with a big future in the world of scientific and astronomy. We say congratulations.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

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The last known supernova in our galaxy occurred several hundred years ago. The new one discovered by Kathryn has been named 2010LT. (Science OnLine)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is Newsline (at) arnewsline (dot) org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita California, 91350

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno, Nevada, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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